

REMARKS

Claims 7 and 12 - 14 are in this application and are presented for consideration.

Claim 7 has been rejected as being obvious over JENTZSCH '833 in view of HORIKOSHI '855.

Claim 7 sets forth an oscillator connected to the roll and moving the roll to and fro in an axial direction. The rejection acknowledges that JENTZSCH '833 does not teach an oscillator. The rejection uses HORIKOSHI '855 to teach a damping system having an oscillator. The rejection appears to state that it would have been obvious to modify JENTZSCH '833 to use the oscillator of HORIKOSHI '855 in order to effectively distribute damping agent on a plate cylinder.

Applicant notes that an obviousness rejection requires that there be a suggestion in the prior art to perform the modification or the combination. It appears that the rejection is using the effective distribution of damping agent as the suggestion to combine and modify. However the rejection does not indicate where the effective distribution is found in the prior art, or why the modification would provide effective distribution of damping agent.

Applicant has reviewed JENTZSCH '833, especially with regard to the irregular and regular, hydrophilic and oleophilic areas 5 and 6. JENTZSCH '833 shows no preference between the the regular and irregular areas 5 and 6. It appears to applicant that the irregular areas would not effectively distribute damping agent. Therefore a person of ordinary skill would not be led to modify JENTZSCH '833 by any suggestion to effectively distribute damping agent. It does not appear that effective distribution of damping agent is to be

performed by JENTZSCH '833, and therefore such a suggestion would have no benefit in JENTZSCH '833. The obviousness rejection of claim 7 is therefore untenable since the suggestion to combine and/or modify provides no advantage for JENTZSCH '833.

Applicant further notes that it does not appear that JENTZSCH '833 is to effectively distribute damping agent on a plate cylinder. It appears that the roll 4 is selectively in contact with roll 2, roll 3, or both. Roll 2 appears to be a color roller and roller 3 appears to be a damp roller. Applicant finds no indication in JENTZSCH '833 that the purpose of roll 4 is to distribute damping agent on a plate cylinder. Instead it appears that roll 4 is to perform a breakdown of templates. The modification of JENTZSCH '833 to effectively distribute damping agent on the plate cylinder therefore changes the principal operation of JENTZSCH '833. Applicant notes that such a modification is not an indication of obviousness. Therefore claim 7 further defines over the apply prior art.

Applicant further notes that HORIKOSHI '855 does not specifically indicate structure that moves a roll to and fro in an axial direction. The rejection refers to roller 24 of HORIKOSHI '855. Applicant has reviewed roller 24, and finds roller 24 to be described as an oscillating roller. However applicant finds no specific indication of the direction in which oscillating roller 24 moves. Applicant notes that an oscillating roller can roll in directions other than the axial direction. An oscillating roller can roll in a radial direction, and it can also oscillate by periodically increasing and decreasing its circumferential velocity. Since HORIKOSHI '855 does not specifically indicate oscillating in an axial direction, the combination of the references fails to anticipate all of the features of claim 7. Claim 7 therefore

further defines over the applied prior art.

Claim 13 sets forth a damping agent applicator roll in contact with the roll and receiving damping agent from the roll. The rejection equates roller 2 of JENTZSCH '833 with the damping agent applicator roll. However applicant finds no indication that roller 2 of JENTZSCH '833 receives damping agent from roller 4. Therefore rollers 2 and 4 of JENTZSCH '833 do not have the same relationship as the damping agent applicator roll and the initial roll of claim 13. Claim 13 therefore further defines over the applied prior art.

Claim 13 further sets forth a damping agent transfer roll transferring damping agent to the initial roll. The rejection does not indicate which structure in JENTZSCH '833 is equated with the damping agent transfer roll, or which structure transfers damping agent to the roll 4. Applicant does not find roller 4 of JENTZSCH '833 to perform any function of receiving damping agent from one roller, and then transferring it to another roller. Two of the three positions of the roller 4 in JENTZSCH '833, only contact one roller. Therefore in these two positions, there can be no transfer of damping agent from one roller to another. In the third position, roller 4 contacts rollers 2 and 3. However applicant finds no teaching that damping agent is transferred from one of these rollers to the other. Therefore claim 13 further defines over the applied prior art.

Claim 14 sets forth a plate cylinder receiving damping agent from the roll. The rejection appears to equate roller 1 of JENTZSCH '833 with the plate cylinder of claim 14. However applicant finds no teaching that plate cylinder 1 receives damping agent from roller 4. Therefore claim 14 further defines over the prior art.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which would further favorable prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative by telephone to discuss possible changes.

At this time Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, and based on the above amendments and remarks, respectfully solicits allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted
For Applicant,

By:



Theobald Dengler
Reg. No. 34,575

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Toni Ann Fonte

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DATED: January 26, 2006
McGLEW AND TUTTLE, P.C.
BOX 9227 SCARBOROUGH STATION
SCARBOROUGH, NEW YORK 10510-9227
TELEPHONE: (914) 941-5600
FACSIMILE: (914) 941-5855